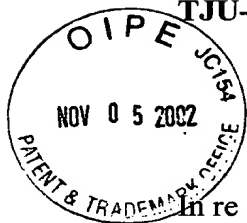


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TJU-2510

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of:

**Carlo M. Croce**

Serial No.: 09/357,675

Group Art Unit: 1632

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filed: July 20, 1999

Examiner: Scott David Priebe

For: **NITRILASE HOMOLOGS**

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 160092789 US  
DATE OF DEPOSIT: November 5, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

In response to the Office Action issued May 9, 2002, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments, without prejudice.

**In the Specification:**

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 4 of page 6 and ending on line 5 of page 6 and replace it with the following new paragraph.

91 **Fig. 6.** A splice variant of the highly conserved human, murine, *D. melanogaster*, and *C. elegans nit1* cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and the polypeptides and peptides deduced from the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:25 through SEQ ID NO:31).